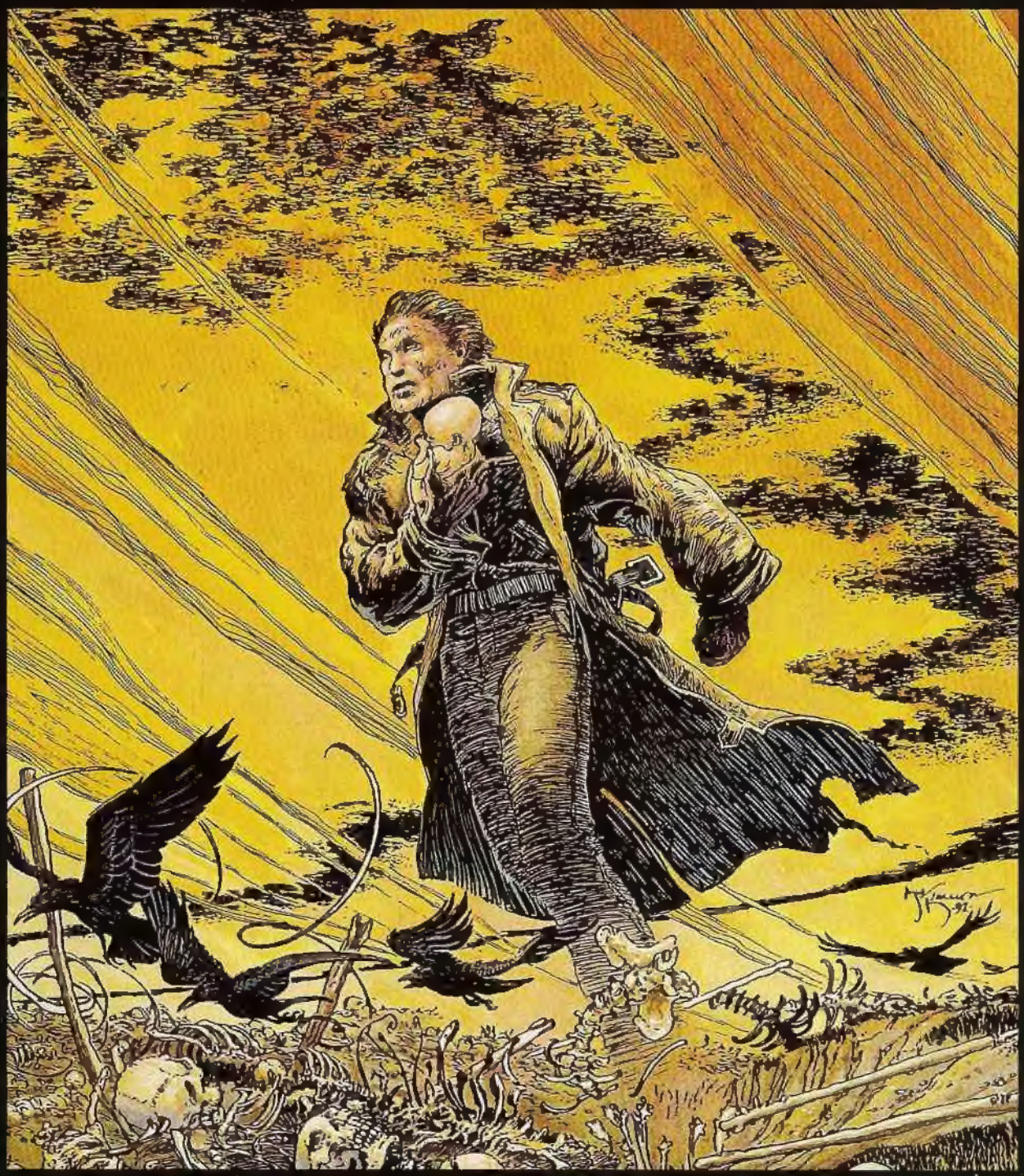
CALIBER PRESS

# NEGATIVE BURN

an anthology

ISSUE SIX $2.95 USA/ $3.95 CAN MATURE AUDIENCES



# NEGATIVE BURN

VOLUME ONE
NUMBER SIX

an anthology

Joe Pruett /Editor

P.O. Box 672162, Marietta, GA 30067-0037

**KILROY IS HERE** ..... Page 1
written by Joe Pruett
illustrated by Ken Meyer Jr.

**VIXEN** ..... Page 7
written and illustrated by David Lloyd

**YULETIDE WARNING** ..... Page 16
written by Elaine Lee
illustrated by Craig Hamilton

**CONDITIONED** ..... Page 18
written and illustrated by Phillip Hester

**CLASSICS DESECRATED** ..... Page 22
written by Doug Wheeler
illustrated by Stan Smith

**MR. MAMOULIAN** ..... Page 24
written and illustrated by Brian Bolland

**SKETCHBOOK** ..... Page 25
illustrations by Andrew Robinson

**PROJECT HIGH** ..... Page 29
written and illustrated by Ken Meyer Jr.

**JOE SMITH THE BEAST** ..... Page 30
written and illustrated by Greg DiGenti

**KILROY IS HERE Cover Art** by Michael Wm. Kaluta

A KRÜNCHY FROGG PRODUCTION
IN ASSOCIATION WITH MAD HATTER STUDIOS INTERNATIONAL

Associate Editors: Charles Moore & James Pruett
Staff Letterer: Roxanne Starr
Production: Nate Pride
British Liaison: Malcolm Bourne
Layout & Design: Shinn Uehara
Publisher: Gary Reed

NEGATIVE BURN: AN ANTHOLOGY. vol. 1-no. 6. Published by Caliber Press, 11904 Farmington Rd., Livonia, MI 48150.
NEGATIVE BURN: AN ANTHOLOGY copyright 1993 by Charles Moore, James Pruett, and Joe Pruett. KILROY IS HERE copyright 1993 by Joe Pruett, artwork copyright 1993 by Ken Meyer Jr. MR. MAMOULIAN copyright 1993 by Brian Bolland. VIXEN copyright 1993 by David Lloyd. CONDITIONED copyright 1993 by Phillip Hester. YULETIDE WARNING copyright 1993 by Elaine Lee and Craig Hamilton. CLASSICS DESECRATED trademark 1993 by Doug Wheeler, "Little Boom Box Boy" copyright 1993 by Doug Wheeler and Stan Smith. SKETCHBOOK copyright 1993 by Andrew Robinson. PROJECT HIGH copyright 1993 by Ken Meyer Jr. JOE SMITH THE BEAST copyright 1993 by Greg DiGenti. Cover art copyright 1993 by Michael Kaluta. Any similarity without satirical purpose to a person, name, character, or institution is a coincidence.

SNAP
WHO... WHO'S THERE?

I MEAN YOU NO HARM, OLD MAN. I SIMPLY SEEK SHELTER FROM THE STORM.
Safe haven
JOE PRUETT-- WRITER/CREATOR
KEN MEYER JR.-- ARTIST
ROXANNE STARR-- LETTERER
2

COME ON OUT OF THE RAIN.
DON'T YOU WANT TO WARM YOURSELF AT THE FIRE, BOY?
NO...THANK YOU, BUT...I... I DON'T LIKE FIRES.
HAVE SOME COFFEE, BOY. IT'LL WARM YOUR INSIDES UP.
3

THANK YOU...
MY NAME'S NATHAN, BOY. ...WHAT'S YOURS?
...KILROY ...I'M CALLED KILROY.
KILROY... NOW THAT'S A PECULIAR NAME.
HERE'S WHAT WE NEED.
THIS WILL REALLY TAKE THE COLD CHILL AWAY FROM YOU. HAVE SOME.

THANK YOU, NO.
SUIT YOURSELF.
YOU'RE NOT LOCAL ARE YOU, BOY? I'VE BEEN LIVING ON THESE STREETS TWO AN' A HALF YEARS NOW AN' I AIN'T SEEN YOU AROUND BEFORE.
NO. I'M A... DRIFTER. A WANDERER. ETERNALLY MOVING. ONE STEP AHEAD.
ONE STEP AHEAD OF WHAT? THE POLICE?
NOT EXACTLY. LET'S JUST SAY THERE ARE...PEOPLE... AFTER ME.

ISN'T THAT JUST THE WAY IT IS? IF IT AIN'T THE POLICE THEN IT'S BILL COLLECTORS... LANDLORDS... EX-WIVES... THERE'S ALWAYS SOME-ONE AFTER YOU.
DON'T WORRY, BOY, I WON'T TURN YOU IN. NOT OLE' NATHAN. ...BEANS?
I MUST GO. THEY'RE DRAWING NEAR...I CAN FEEL IT.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY, NATHAN. PERHAPS WE WILL MEET AGAIN.
ON THAT YOU CAN COUNT, KILROY. SOON...VERY SOON.
THE END

WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY DAVID LLOYD IN 1974. COPYRIGHT © 1993 DAVID LLOYD.

SARAH! - GOD, BUT YOU'RE DEAD! DEAD!
DEAD!
(GASP!) DEAD? NO - I'M ALIVE! ...IN LIFE I WAS DEAD!
..YOU CAN'T IMAGINE THE PLEASURES, THE ECSTASIES THERE ARE IN THIS..LIFE, GERALD. ..COME..
E-ECSTASIES? - BUT YOU'VE BECOME A M-MONSTER - AN ANIMAL!
AH, BUT IN LIFE I WAS AN ANIMAL. WASN'T I? YOU CALLED ME A VIXEN DIDN'T YOU?
I WAS CUNNING, TREACHEROUS, UNFAITHFUL.. WASN'T I?..
WASN'T I?
YES! Y-YES!

BUT IT WAS YOUR FAULT GERALD. YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN TO MY NEEDS, FED MY ANIMAL APPETITES -INSTEAD OF LEAVING THE TASK TO OTHERS.. BUT IT ISN'T TOO LATE...
FEED ME NOW..
N-NO.. GOD, NO!
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE ME, GERALD! NOT THIS TIME..
H-HELP! -HELP! MISTER CROOKER! HELP! W-WAKE UP, FOR GOD'S SAKE-
HE'S AWAKE NOW -HOW COULD ANYONE SLEEP THROUGH ALL THAT SHOUTING? HMM?
HE'S TREMBLING UNDER THE BEDCLOTHES. -JUST AS YOU WOULD IN HIS PLACE..
MISTER CROOKER! LET ME IN!
HEE! HEE! REMEMBER THAT NIGHT THERE WAS A BRAWL ON OUR DOORSTEP?.. I THOUGHT YOU'D SHRIVEL UP AND CRAWL UNDER THE PILLOW..

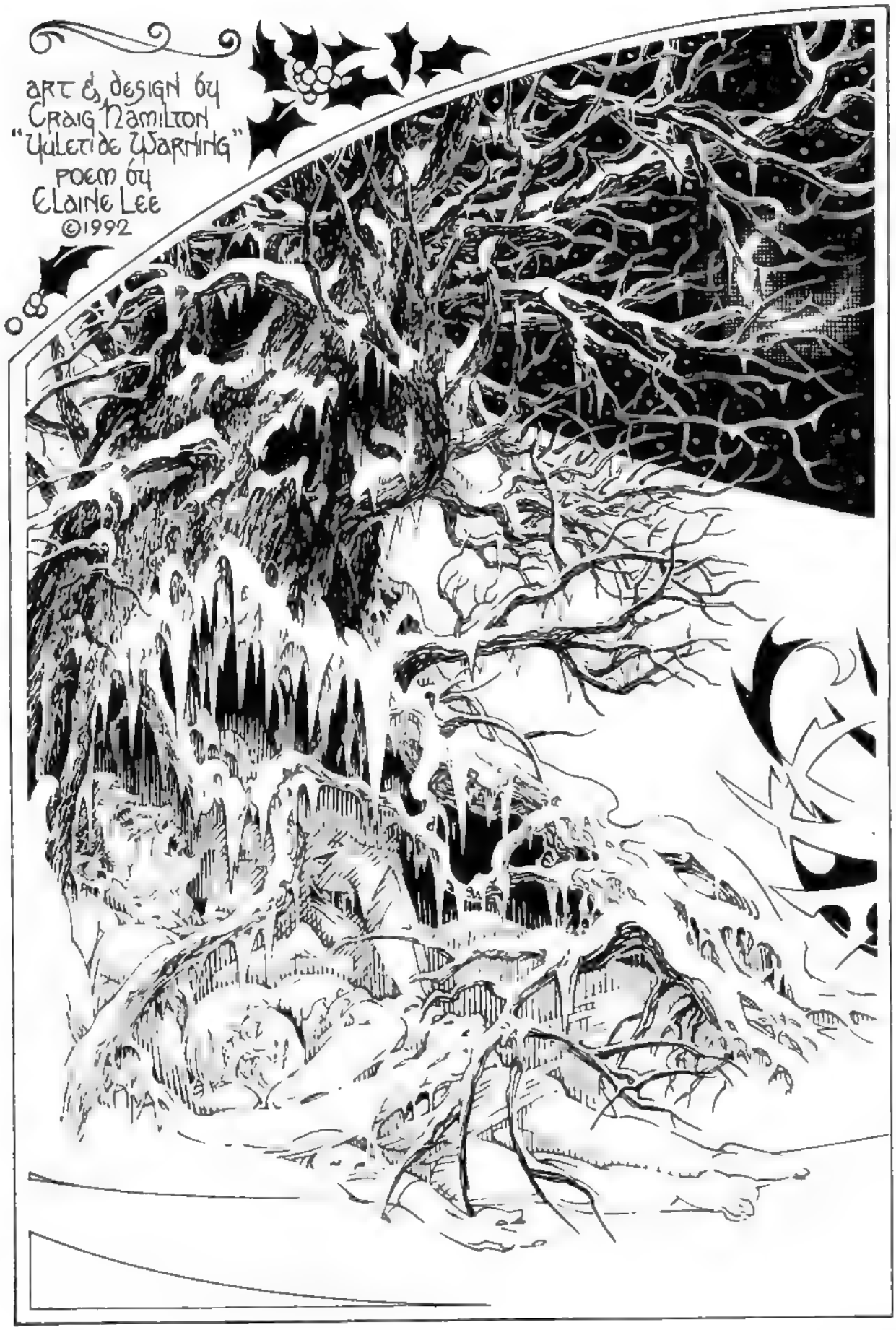
THAT'S IT—TRY THE THOMSONS; AND THE BUTLERS...TRY THEM ALL...
..AND DON'T FORGET THE CONSTABLE.
NO LUCK?
I-I'LL GET HELP! (GASP!) I'LL GET HELP! S-SOMEONE WILL COME ALONG!
POLICE
COME ON—TRY AND MAKE IT HOME! I'LL RACE YOU—YOU MIGHT EVEN BEAT ME.. COME ON, I'LL GIVE YOU A HEAD START!
OH, GERALD, DON'T BE SILLY—NO ONE GOES OUT AT NIGHT IN THIS VILLAGE ...EXCEPT YOU. YOU DON'T—DIDN'T BELIEVE IN VAMPIRES, REMEMBER?
OH, G-GOD..
SARAH, A-ATTACK ME IF YOU MUST BUT W-WHY...WHY PROLONG THIS TORMENT?
BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO SUBMIT WILLINGLY, GERALD. I WANT YOU TO ENJOY YOUR INITIATION.

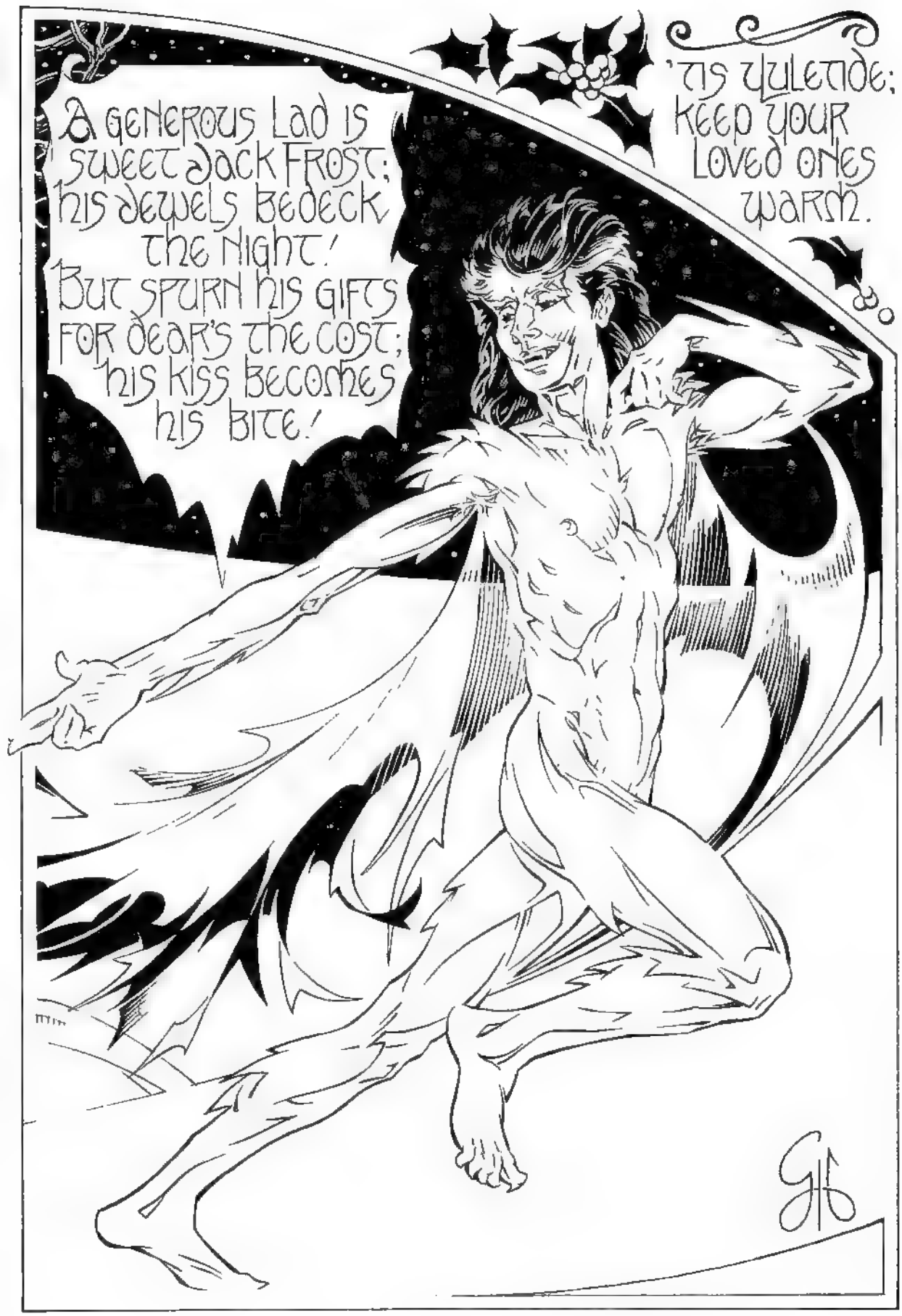
E-ENJOY IT?
YES
BUT.. YOU JUST-
OH, I WOULDN'T HAVE BITTEN YOU THEN. I JUST WANTED TO..SURPRISE YOU..
..WE'RE NOT THE MINDLESS CREATURES YOU THINK WE ARE, GERALD. WE CAN'T ANSWER FOR OUR CONDITION..IT'S A SICKNESS; A DISEASE WE CAN'T AVOID PASSING ON TO OTHERS..
I MUST.. DRINK YOUR BLOOD TONIGHT BECAUSE I AM HUNGRY-AND NOTHING OTHER THAN BLOOD WILL FEED ME..
BUT, YOU SEE, THE HUNGRIER WE ARE, THE MORE VICIOUS WE BECOME -THE HUNGER MAKES US MONSTERS I WAS VICIOUS A FEW MOMENTS AGO AND I'M SORRY-BUT IT'S SO..DIFFICULT TO CONTROL MYSELF LIKE THIS-AND I HAD TO BE CRUEL. I HAD TO SHOW YOU THERE IS NO ESCAPE..
YOU.. MUST SUBMIT
I..I CAN'T. I WON'T.
GIVE ME YOUR BLOOD AND I CAN BE MERCIFUL; I'LL LEAVE YOU ALIVE-A VAMPIRE, OF COURSE -BUT ALIVE..
..FORCE ME TO TAKE IT AND..WELL, IN BATTLE WE ARE FIERCE- I'LL KILL YOU. I WON'T BE ABLE TO HELP MYSELF..
I DON'T..HAVE TO GIVE YOU THIS CHOICE -LET'S JUST SAY IT'S FOR OLD TIMES SAKE.
C-CHOICE? CHOICE? Y-YOU..WANT ME TO.. SURRENDER..TO.. TO THAT MONSTROUS AFFLICTION..THAT OBSCENE CURSE-

SAME OLD GERALD - STUBBORN AS A MULE..
I'LL WAIT - BUT NOT FOR LONG.. AND NOT UNTIL SUNRISE..
GERALD..GIVE IN ..IT WON'T HURT MUCH - I PROMISE..
N-NO
IS YOUR LIFE NOW - YOUR DULL AND UNEVENTFUL LIFE - SO PRECIOUS TO YOU? IS YOUR EXISTENCE SO SWEET WITHOUT ME? ..IS WORK ENOUGH FOR YOU ONCE MORE?
..GIVE IN, AND WE CAN BE TOGETHER AGAIN I'LL COME TO YOU EVERY NIGHT - WITHOUT FAIL. I'LL BE..FAITHFUL IN DEATH AS I WAS UNFAITHFUL IN LIFE ..GIVE IN, GERALD

WHAT'S THE TIME?
-UHH- ER..
YOU CAN'T FOOL ME, GERALD - I CAN SENSE THE COMING OF DAWN .. IT DRAWS CLOSE..
WELL, GERALD?
(SOB!) OH..GOD

WELL, GERALD?
WELL?

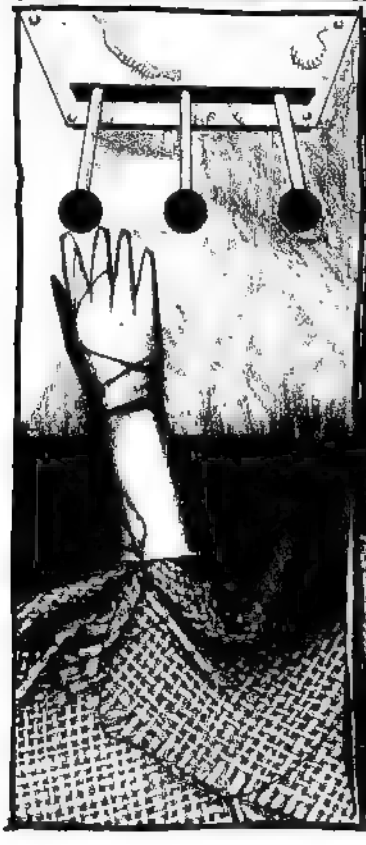

art & design by
Craig Hamilton
"Yuletide Warning"
poem by
Elaine Lee
©1992


A generous lad is sweet Jack Frost; his jewels bedeck the night! But spurn his gifts for dear's the cost; his kiss becomes his bite!
'tis yuletide; keep your loved ones warm.

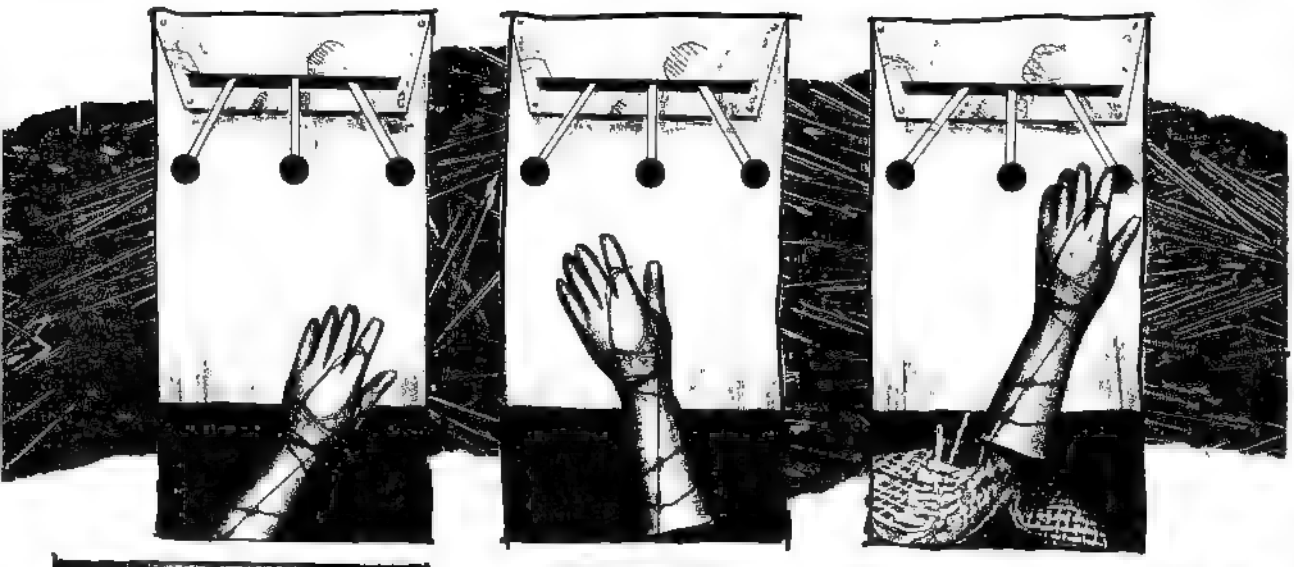
# C O N D i t i O N E D

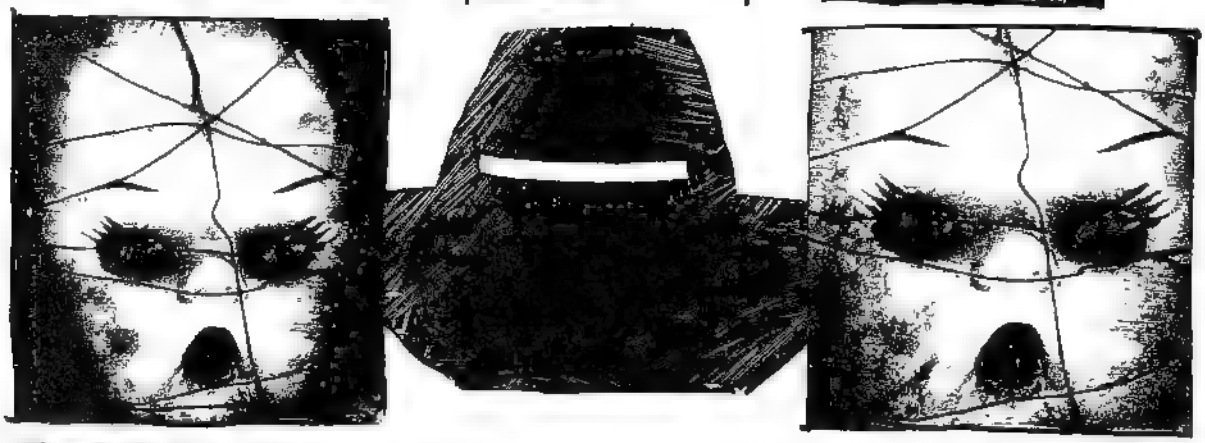
• IN WHICH NAILBOSS TEACHES THE ICEBABY AN IMPORTANT LESSON •

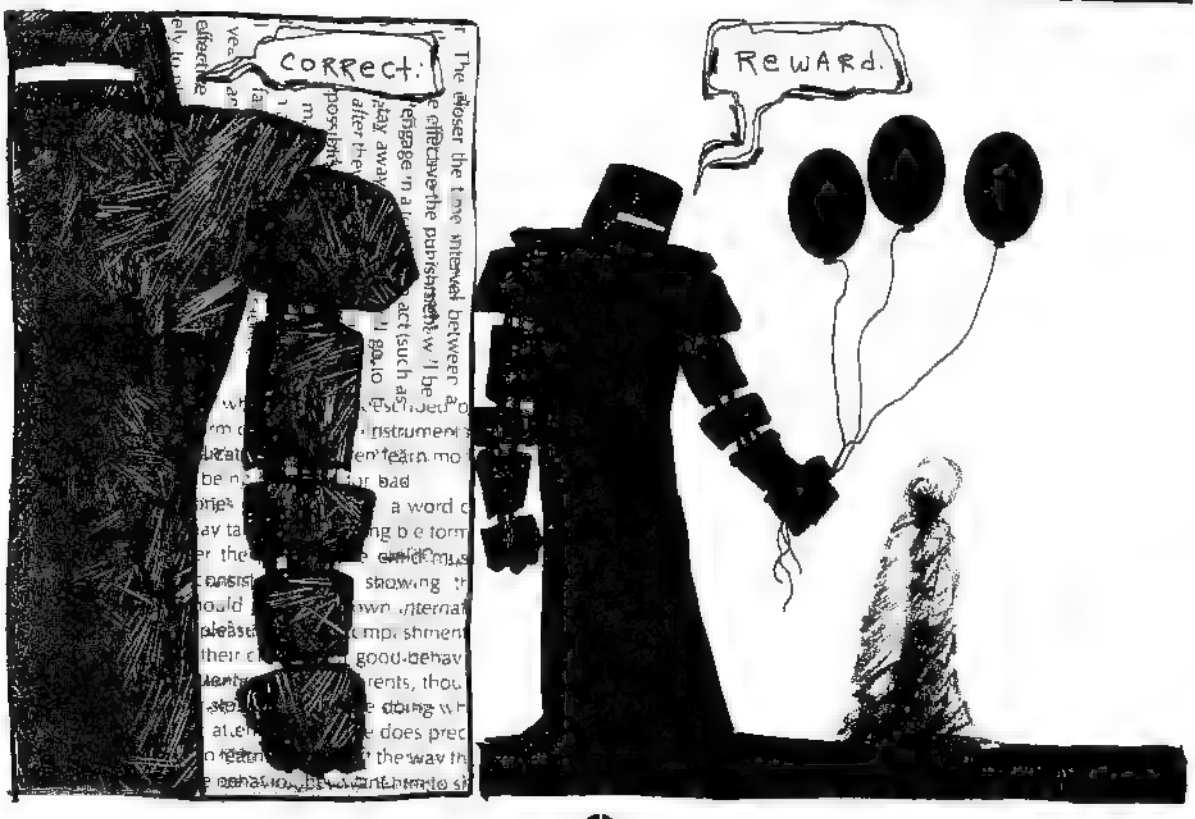
BY PHILIP HESTER

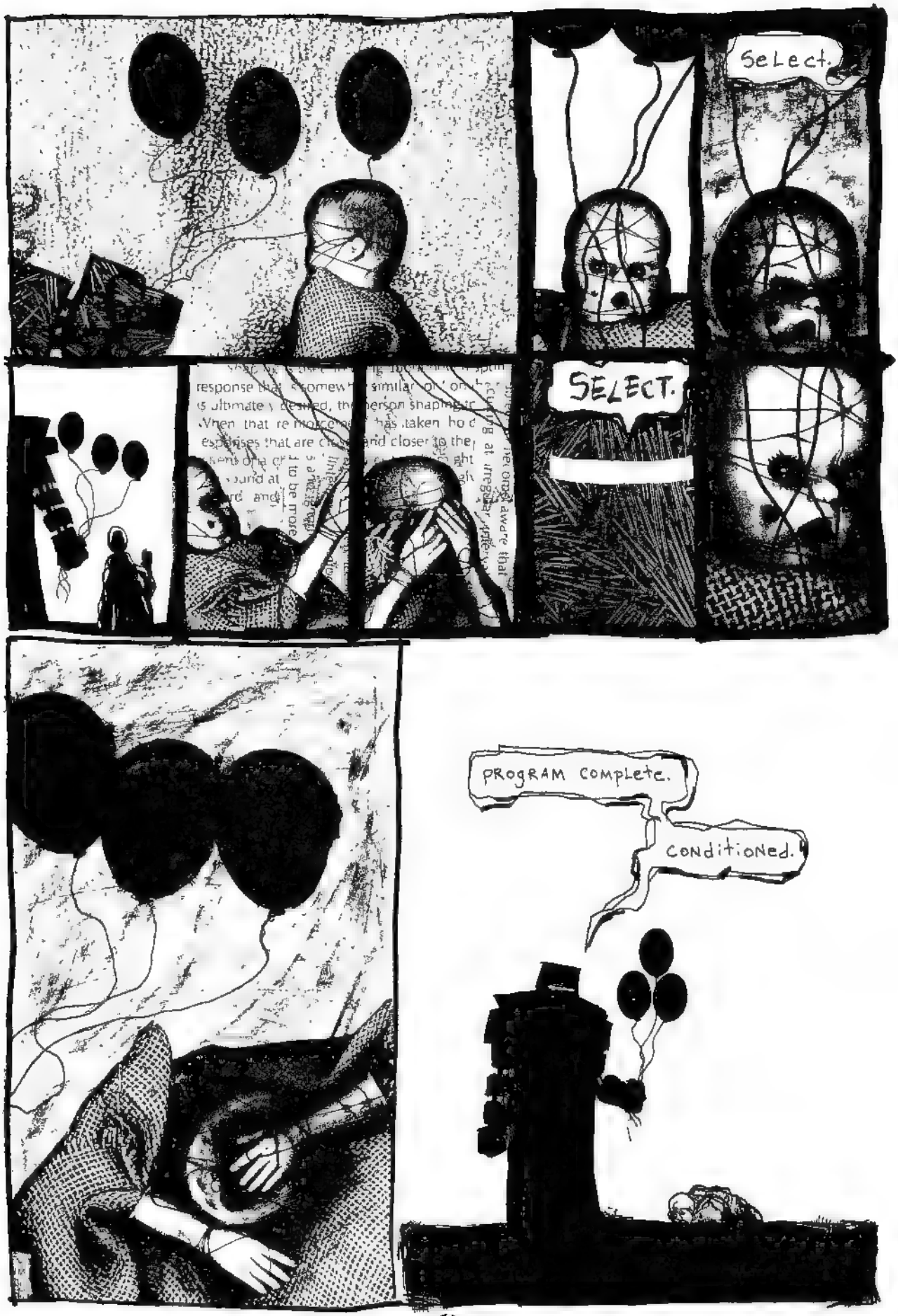


SeLect.
iNcoRRect.
SANctioN.
SeLect.



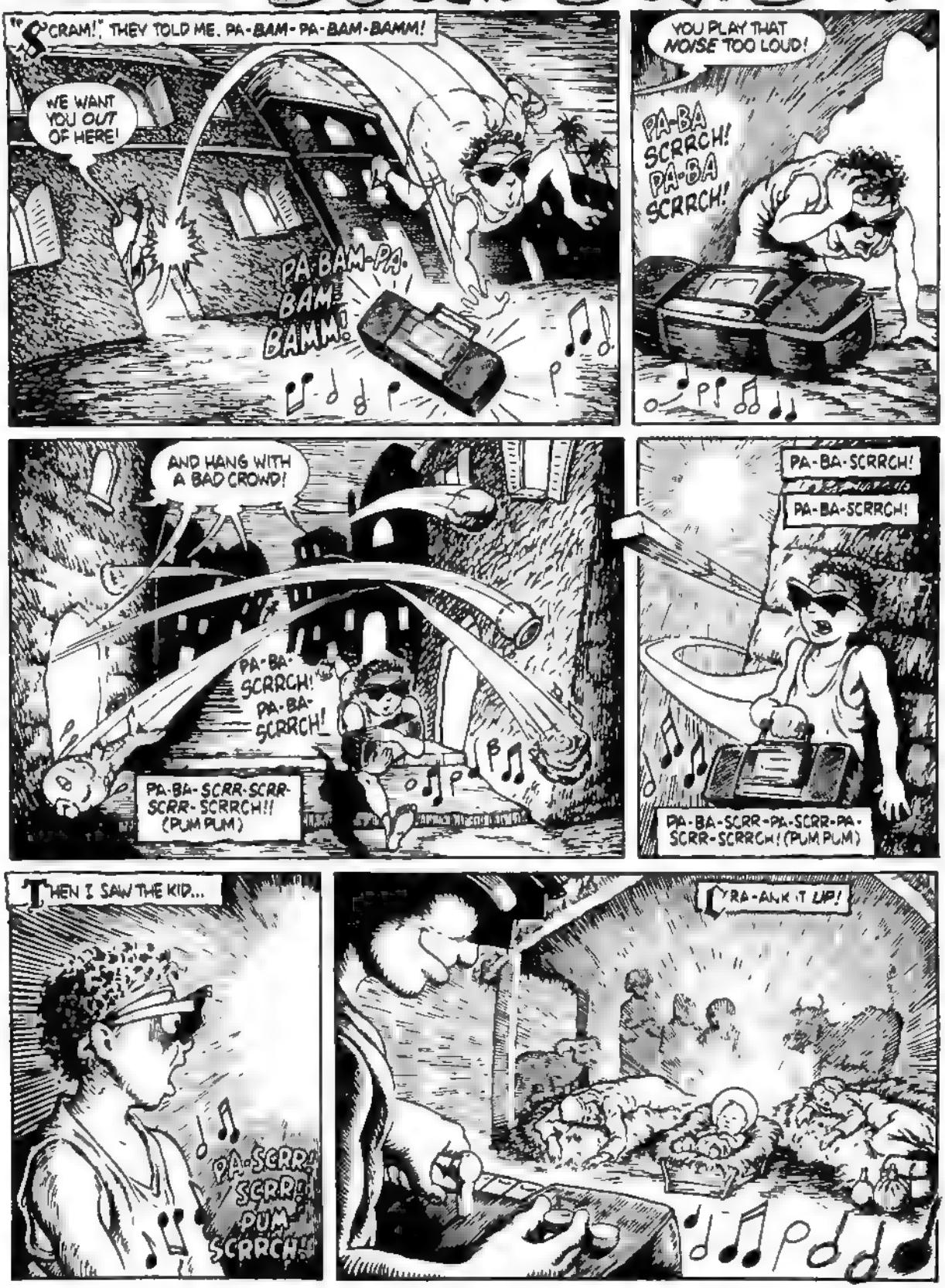



CORRECT.
REWARD.


SeLect.
SELECT.
PROGRAM COMPLETE.
CONDITIONED.

CLASSICS DESECRATED

# The Little BOOM-BOX BOY



I BLARE MY SONGS ALL NIGHT! PA-BA-SCRR-SCRRCH-SCRRCH! SO NO ONE SLEEPS TONIGHT! SCRR-RRR-EEE-RRR-RRCH! RRR-EEE-RRR-RRCH!

THE CATS AND DOGS HOWLED, TOO. PA-BAM-BA-BAM-BAMM!!

ADAPTED FROM A SONG BY KATE BUSH-DAVIS, NINJA SONORATI AND HAIRY SIMIAN.

DEFILED BY DOUG WHEELER AND STEVE SMITH

# MR. MAMOULIAN
# DARK HORSE



BOLLAND '87

# Andrew Robinson




# Sketchbook

# andrew robinson checklist

### *Comics*

**DHP #74-76**
"The Chairman"
pencils and inks

**NEGATIVE BURN #1**
"Kilroy Is Here"
cover art

**NEGATIVE BURN #3**
"Black Mist"
cover art

### *T-Shirts*

**KILROY IS HERE**
Studio X
available Dec. 1993

### *Gaming*

**MAGE**
White Wolf
illustrations

**THE BOOK OF NOD**
White Wolf
illustrations

**FOOLISH STRAP, ALWAYS PACK**
Mayfair
illustrations

### *Upcoming*

**DHP #?**
"Breath of Fresh Air"
pencils and inks

**CHAIN GANG WAR #11 & #12**
inks

**NEGATIVE BURN #8**
"Kilroy Is Here"
cover inks

**KILROY IS HERE #0**
inks

PROJECT high

"CAMP GOODWILL"

There we were...

...my brother Steve and I, under the stars...

...sorta camping out.

Anything to get away from our stepfather.

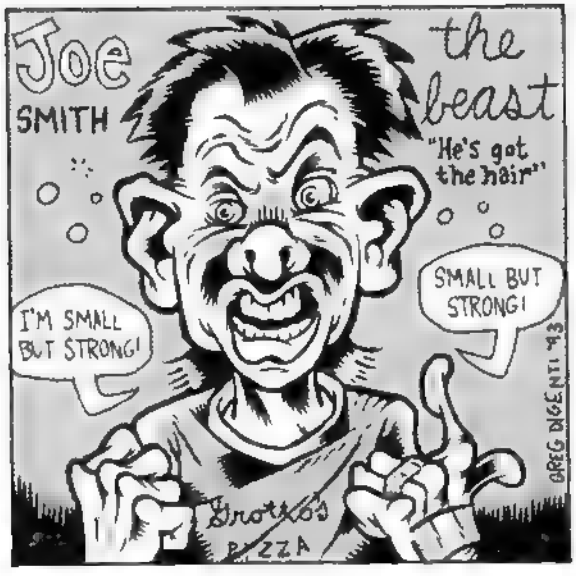
WEEOOOWEEEO

Weren't no mountains in the projects, tho.

GOODW

INDUSTRIE

Ken Meyer Jr 93


Joe SMITH
the beast
"He's got the hair"
I'M SMALL BUT STRONG!
SMALL BUT STRONG!
GREG DIGENTI '93
Grotto's PIZZA

OKAY, I COME HOME FROM CLASS ONE DAY AND MY DAMN ROOMMATES HAD TORE UP ALL MY FUCKIN' POSTERS!
EVEN THE ONE OF SAMANTHA FOX WITHOUT ANY SHIRT ON!
Grotto's PIZZA

I GOT SO PISSED THAT I PUNCHED A HOLE IN THE WALL AND MY KNUCKLES SWELLED UP REAL BIG.
I STILL GOT THE BANDAGES.
WOUND HEALED SIX WEEKS AGO.

I THINK MY ROOMMATES GOT SCARED BY THE POWER OF THE BEAST..
..'CUZ THEY OFFERED TO BUY ME A NEW POSTER
THEY NEVER DID, THOUGH, THE BASTARDS!
ACID WASHED JEANS

THEY TOLD ME THEY WERE SORRY ABOUT MY HAND...
...I SAID I WAS JUST GLAD I DIDN'T HAVE TO HIT NOBODY...
DANGEROUS WEAPONS

...WELL, THEY, UH... THEY ALL BROKE OUT LAUGHING...
...BUT I KNEW THEY WAS SCARED! 'CUZ I'M THE BEAST!!
THE END

**Olav Beemer**
**Brugakker 36-06**
**3704 LP Zeist**
**The Netherlands**
**Europe**

**Dear Joe and Charles,**

What can I do but congratulate you guys once again on a job very well done? **NEGATIVE BURN #2** was as interesting as it was thought-provoking and as intriguing as it was enjoyable. One problem anthology books have is the fact that readers can find one story extremely good while they hate the next. Lucky for me, the second issue of **NEGATIVE BURN** was almost completely to my liking.

**KNIGHTS OF THE SKULL** was gripping indeed, telling a horrifying story about the German soldiers in World War Two. I can tell from the incredible detail in both dialogue and art that Wayne Vansant has a vast knowledge of that certain time period, and I appreciate that.

**WHAT GOOD IS IT?** was funny and had me laughing out loud. Phillip Hester is as witty and entertaining as always. Thanks for giving us a proper way to deal with the hill-charging army man.

**THE GREAT ESCAPE** was without a doubt the highlight of this issue. A tense and scary tale about child abuse, written in a compelling manner, having the readers experience the story as if they were in it themselves. Jim's artwork meshed well with Malcolm's intelligent plot. Thumbs up for this one!

I liked the Sketchbook of Tim Bradstreet, and I'm glad you dared taking the risk of printing sketches, since that's very uncommon these days in comics.

**PLAYMATES** was perhaps one of the best features this issue. A nice and touching story about young kids with whom we all can identify ourselves. Steve Lieber's artwork is perfectly suited for this kind of story, and I hope to see more of his work in these pages soon.

**BONESHAKER** was good, yet completely weird, and while the premises of the tale is rather interesting, I'll hold back any further comments until I've read the next chapters.

**STUBBS THE CAT** starts where Garfield ends, and I really enjoyed seeing this homicidal cat terrorizing poor Joe. I see shades of Cerebus shining through, but above all, Greg DiGenti has established an original character, and I can't wait to see more of Stubbs.

Though both **MR. MAMOULIAN** and **MANHATTAN** were of lesser quality, **NEGATIVE BURN #2** nevertheless was brilliantly crafted, and I can only hope you guys will continue to get better and better with each new issue. You've got my continued support, fellas!

*Good to hear from you again, Olav. It's always interesting to see how far away our readers are. **Wayne Vansant** really does put a lot of research into all his projects and it definitely shows through. Read his **DAYS OF DARKNESS** and **DAYS OF WRATH** from Apple Comics if you're interested in seeing an accurate portrayal of the Pacific front of World War Two. Also, if you like **Steve Lieber's** art be sure to add **HAWKMAN** to your must buy list, as Steve is now the regular penciller there, and **LOOKING FOR NANNY KATIE** from Cult Press—co-written by **Jeff Lang** and **Malcolm Bourne** and illustrated by Steve. What did you think of **Greg DiGenti's** more recent work? I just hope that not all **NEGATIVE BURN** readers actually look that way. **BONESHAKER** will be making a return to these pages in issue eight. I also hope that you'll give **Brian Bolland's MR. MAMOULIAN** another chance, as the series continues to grow and improve with each passing chapter.*

LETTERS

write to—Joe Pruett
P.O.Box 672162 Marietta, GA 30067-0037

**SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!**

Having problems finding **NEGATIVE BURN** in your area? Now you can subscribe and never miss an issue!

**6 issues/1/2 year for $18.00**

**12 issues/1 year for $36.00**

**Send to:**
**Joe Pruett**
**PO Box 672162**
**Marietta, GA**
**30067-0037**

Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to **Joe Pruett.**

Coming up in **NEGATIVE BURN** in 1994:
**Brian Bolland ▪ Alan Moore ▪ Neil Gaiman Charles Vess ▪ Martin Wagner ▪ James A. Owen P. Craig Russell ▪ Evan Dorkin ▪ Richard Case Brian Stelfreeze ▪ Craig Hamilton ▪ Paul Gulacy**

**Brandon Howard**
**Shorter College**
**315 Shorter Ave. Box 676**
**Rome, GA 30165**

Let me start by saying that I'm not a big comic enthusiast as many of your readers probably are, but I do have an opinion, and if nothing else, it means something to me.

I have just finished reading the second issue of **NEGATIVE BURN,** and I'm impressed. I waited to write to you until I had a chance to read a second issue because I wanted to make sure the first one wasn't a fluke. Too often, I get so sick of reading comics that are centered on one or two characters, so it was great to see a new, fresh anthology. I truly enjoyed reading both issues and am really looking forward to coming issues.

I was particularly entertained by the Phillip Hester cartoon, **WHAT GOOD IS IT?**, as it sent my mind reeling back to the days of actually trying to figure out what that guy is for (of course, I never really thought he was "an inbred hillbilly cracker"). **THE GREAT ESCAPE** by Malcolm Bourne and **PLAYMATES** by Jeff Lang also kept my attention as I read on to see what happened next. **STUBBS THE CAT** by Greg DiGenti was also very personal to me because I often find myself wondering, "what good are cats?"

Issue number one caught my attention with a character that, obviously you're familiar with, named **KILROY**. I had seen **KILROY** in **CALIBRATIONS** some time ago and had been waiting for his reappearance. I'm glad to see him again, and (although I said I don't like centralized comics as much) I'm anxiously awaiting his first "solo" run.

I'm so glad I was able to write you and tell you that I like your book. I was afraid that if I waited for the second issue, I would not be impressed. I hope you keep up the good work, and I look forward to issue number three.

Thanks for the good work.

*If we can bring a "non-comics fan" into our comics community then I feel that we must be doing something right. The often delayed **KILROY** series will be coming out in the Spring of '94, to be illustrated by **Guy Burwell** and **Tim Bradstreet** with covers by **Brian Bolland**. There will also be a special issue #0 illustrated by Dark Horse artists **D. Alexander Gregory** and **Andrew Robinson**. In the meantime, hope you're enjoying the shorts being offered in **NEGATIVE BURN**. Did you like **Ken Meyer's** take on the character in this issue?*

**Carl Pietrantonio**
**517 Idylwood Lane**
**Laredo, Texas 78041**

**Dear Joe, Charles and folks,**

There are far too few anthologies out there on the comics market that are worth a damn. Fortunately, this one is worth not only a damn, but $2.95 US funds! I don't like the flip book format though. Put everything in the same direction. It is always disconcerting tome to deal with something like this.

Anyway, on to what I thought of the various features. I am going to keep it short due to the number of them.

**KNIGHTS OF THE SKULL**: GREAT! What a terrific look at what goes on inside a soldier's head. ANY soldier's head, I suspect. Whether the soldier is on one side or the other, the fear of war is there. Great work by Wayne here. I hope you will have more work by him in the future.

**WHAT GOOD IS IT?**: Funny little one pager. I liked the look at the old toy soldiers. What ever happened to them anyway?

**THE GREAT ESCAPE**: Damn. I hate stories like this. It make tears come to my eyes. Childhood violence and abuse are so terrible, yet this goes on everyday all over the world. Malcolm did a hell of a job on this story. I will remember this one for a long time. MUCH more effective in B&W than in color. That would have been too gory looking at the end and ruined the effect of the story being told.

**TIM BRADSTREET SKETCHBOOK**: Um. I am not a fan of sketchbooks, so I guess I should leave it at that.

**MANHATTAN**: Huh? I don't get it. Period.

**PLAYMATES**: Now here, I am very troubled. I know Jeff and Steve both, having met them in Philly. Is my opinion on this going to be biased by this? No, because fortunately, I read this before I met them. Not only that, but this is a damned good story anyway. Good art by Steve and a very good story by Jeff. The slice of life type stories like this that are any good are few and far between. I am glad to say that this is one of the better ones. I liked it a great deal.

**MR. MAMOULIAN**: A strange little man. I kind of like this feature as long as it stays at one or two pages per issue.

**BONESHAKER**: Um. I didn't like the art. At all. Not having read the first part made it even harder to understand what was going on too. I think I will pass on this feature.

**STUBBS THE CAT**: FUNNY! I liked this story. This reminded me of some of the good stuff from MAD magazine in past years when I was a kid. I'd like to see more of Greg's work sometime.

Overall, a very good anthology. Some stuff I didn't like. However, what I DID like far outshone what I didn't. Negative Burn is a winner as far as I am concerned.

Thanks to everyone concerned for all the fine work. Until next time....

*Thanks for the words, Carl. Sorry you didn't care much for **BONESHAKER**. It's usually the one piece picked out by most professionals as their favorite. **Phillip Hester** has a wide range of styles and in **NEGATIVE BURN** we're giving him the opportunity to experiment. Hopefully, others you will like. We're also constantly trying to update our sketchbook section. It won't be in every issue, but we're doing our best to bring you an inside look at some of the industry's finest talents.*

*See you next month,*

*Joe*

© Craig Hamilton 1993

Craig Hamilton

# A New Shirt Every Month...

The Best Art from the Best Artists

Tim Bradstreet

© Timothy Bradstreet 1993

STUDIO X

**STUDIO X**

**529 N. SHERMAN · LINCOLN, IL 62656**

Jeff Laubenstein

# THE PORTFOLIO SHIRT SERIES

© Jeff Laubenstein 1993

All Studio X shirts are printed on 100% Pre-Shrunk Cotton T-Shirts
Available at fine comic and game stores the world over.

Also featuring: Phil Foglio, D. Alexander Gregory, Tony Harris, and Andrew Robinson

WHEN THE ZONE RETURNS
BE PREPARED.
Catch the all-new action in MARCH 1994!